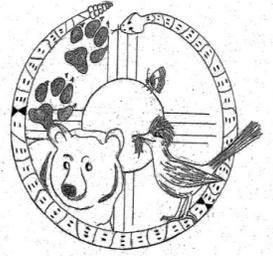


# The Wild News



**WILD FRIENDS**

Website: <http://wildfriends.unm.edu>

**FALL 2013**

UNM Institute of Public Law, Wild Friends Program, School of Law  
MSC11 6060, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131  
email: [sgeorge2@unm.edu](mailto:sgeorge2@unm.edu) – 505.277.5089

Find Us on FACEBOOK! **Wild Friends New Mexico**

## Look what the Wild Friends Did!

### Expand Wildlife Safety Zones Workshop (HM1 & SM11)

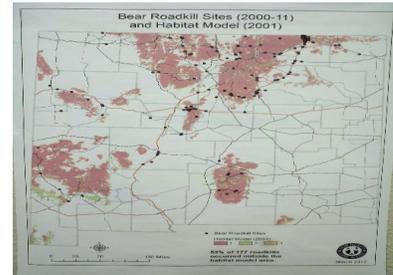


Thanks to the efforts of the 2012-2013 Wild Friends, the NM Department of Transportation held a workshop on May 14, 2013 to discuss priority areas wildlife safety zones.



Sue George, Daisy Morgan Edel and Jonas Armstrong attended on behalf of Wild Friends.

Many state road maintenance crew workers, NMDOT managers, NMDGF biologists and game wardens attended and worked together to determine where the wildlife-vehicle collisions happen the most often throughout New Mexico. We discussed deer, elk, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, bear and mountain lions. Each district (NM has 6 transportation districts) identified their top 5 priority areas within the district (some districts had more and some had less) with the most collisions with wildlife.



Most participants agreed that roadside vegetation trimming and fencing would be the easiest, most cost effective way to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and many workers were already trimming back roadside vegetation. NMDOT is working hard to fund an even bigger project for the top 10 spots in the state.



### Wildlife Safety Awareness week!

We are proud to announce that Gov. Martinez has declared of Sept. 15-21 as Wildlife Safety Awareness Week!

#### What You Can Do:

Write a press release, call your local TV station or just tell your family and friends about the importance of slowing down in areas where wildlife cross the roads.

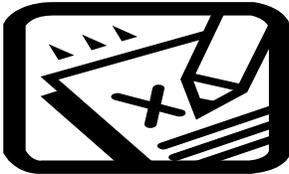


This year is a 30 day session at the New Mexico Legislature, January 21—February 20, 2014.



Wild Friends it is now time to decide what you will be working on this legislative year. We have come up with 3 choices for you to choose from. You will need to research and help write the legislation on the winning topic.

### Wild Friends Ballot



Your Vote Counts!

- Choice A: Bats
- Choice B: Fire Ecology
- Choice C: Poaching

**Deadline to vote!  
September 20, 2013**

**Students:** After voting, cut out ballot and give to your teacher. Your teacher will tally the votes and report the results to the Wild Friends office **by Sept. 20:** phone 505-277-5089, fax 505-277-7064 or email: sgeorge2@unm.edu.

#### **Choice A: (Memorial) Protection for Bats:**

Bats are important pollinators and insectivores; and bats are important predators of a great variety of night-flying insects, including mosquitoes, moths and beetles. Little brown bats may capture 500 to 600 mosquitoes per hour. It has been estimated that a colony of 20 million free-tailed bats may consume 250,000 pounds of insects each night. Despite their numbers, bats are among the least known and most misunderstood animal. Their ability to fly, their secretiveness, and their nocturnal habits have contributed to bat folklore, superstition, and fear. This in turn has led to eradication and serious endangerment of many species of bats. In truth, they are intelligent, gentle creatures of great ecological and economic value. Protection measures based on education are having a profound impact on bat populations, reversing declines in many areas. The Wild Friends can educate the legislature about the importance of bats, the threats to bats, and ask NM Game and Fish Dept. to study what legal protection are needed.



This would be a two step process – 1<sup>st</sup> year memorial to set stage for protection, 2<sup>nd</sup> year bill to provide legal protection.

#### **Choice B: (Memorial) Fire Ecology:**

Forest fires are a natural occurrence throughout much of the West, and contribute to the healthy characteristics of forests in New Mexico. Without fire, forests lose much of their plant diversity. Many tree species, such as the Ponderosa Pine, have developed specific characteristics to live in an environment frequented by fire. In the Southwest, most fires are caused by lightening strikes, and as droughts intensify within New Mexico, the possibility of forest fires increases. Fires may seem disruptive to wildlife, but many species, such as the black bear, thrive in areas that have recently had forest fires. A forest fire can open the canopy of a forest and allow more plants to grow on the ground, providing more food for black bears and other forest-dwelling animal species. Write a memorial to designate a fire awareness education



#### **Choice C: (Memorial) Poaching:**

What is poaching? It is illegally catching live animals or killing animals. A person who illegally kills wildlife is called a poacher. The illegal killing of wildlife, otherwise known as poaching, has become the world's most profitable crime activity behind drugs and guns. Poaching has driven many species to the point of extinction. Because wildlife belongs to all of us, poachers are stealing something of enormous value from us all. Write a memorial in support of NM Game & Fish efforts to increase the penalty for certain poaching to a "4th degree" felony.

